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OLC 74-¹⁴⁹⁴1527

15 July 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: The Cooper-Church Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1971

1. The Cooper-Church amendment, now section 656 of Public Law 92-226, restricts the number of Americans and American-sponsored third-country nationals who can be in Cambodia at one time



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2. The Cooper-Church amendment was submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee as an amendment to the Administration's Foreign Assistance Act of 1971. An amendment with similar intentions, but with different figures, was submitted by Senator Clifford P. Case (R., N.J.). The amendment, as introduced, imposed a ceiling of 200 on the number of United States civilians and military personnel who can be in Cambodia at any time. The 200 did not include U.S. military personnel involved in air operations, either combat or supply, originating outside of Cambodia. There were 56 U.S. civilian and 87 military personnel stationed in Cambodia in late 1971. The amendment and Committee action were in reaction to news reports that this U.S. contingent of 143, already up from 12 people in April 1970, was to be considerably expanded by the Defense Department in the following year.

3. The original amendment also imposed a ceiling of 50 on the number of third-country nationals working in Cambodia whose compensation could be paid, even only partially, by the United States. This provision was added in an attempt to prevent reported Administration intentions to evade the 200 limit by recruiting and paying advisors and technicians from other countries to serve in Cambodia.

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